

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-18, 20, 23-26 and 28-38 were previously pending. Claims 18, 24 and 34 have been canceled by the present Amendment. Claims 1, 3, 23, 25, 26 and 28-32 have been amended by the present Amendment. Therefore claims 1, 3-17, 20, 23, 25, 26, 28-33 and 35-38 are presently pending and under active consideration.

Support for the amended claims 1, 3, 23, 25, 26 and 28-32 can be found throughout the present application as originally filed.

According, the present amendments to the claims do not add any new matter. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

With respect to all amendments and canceled claims, Applicant has not dedicated or abandoned any unclaimed subject matter and moreover has not acquiesced to any rejections and/or objections made by the Patent Office. Applicant reserves the right to pursue prosecution of any presently excluded claim embodiments in future continuation and/or divisional applications.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112**Enablement**

Claims 1, 3-17, 20, 23-26 and 28-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for performing the methods recited in 1, 3-17, 20, 23-26, and 28-38 when said carrier macromolecule is dextran, allegedly does not reasonably provide enablement for performing the methods recited in 1, 3-17, 20, 23-26 and 28-38 when said carrier macromolecule is any kind of polysaccharide or any kind of dextran derivative. The Examiner alleged that the specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

This rejection is rendered moot by the amendment of claims 1, 3 and 23, which now recite “a dextran” as the carrier macromolecule.

Indefiniteness

Claims 3-17, 20, 34, 37 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner alleged that claim 3 is rejected as vague and indefinite. According to the Examiner, since the claim does not indicate that divinyl sulfone is located on a primer or a non-nucleotide carrier macromolecule, it is unclear how to bind a primer to a non-nucleotide carrier macromolecule via one or more moieties derived from divinyl sulfone. The Examiner requested further clarification on claim 3.

This rejection is rendered moot by the amendment of claim 3, which now recites “divinyl sulfone located on the non-nucleotide carrier macromolecule.”

Claim 34 recites the limitation “homopolyamino acid” in the claim. There is allegedly insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim because claim 3 requires that said carrier macromolecule is only selected from the group consisting of a polysaccharide and a dextran or dextran derivative. The Examiner requested further clarification on claim 34.

This rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 34.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the enablement and indefiniteness rejection of claims 3 and 34, respectively.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Reddy *et al.*, (US Patent No. 5,648,213, filed on August 30, 1994).

This rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 18.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of claim 18 over Reddy.

Conclusion

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. **577212000101**. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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